



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 7, 2006

Grand Pines Resort, Hayward, Wisconsin

Committee Members Present:

John DuPlissis, UWSP; Teri Heyer, USFS; Mary Platner, Wisconsin Association of Lakes; Gail Pierce, River Alliance of Wisconsin; Larry Meicher, Trout Unlimited; Dave Stoiber, International Paper; Mark Leathers (representing Lynn Wilson), Lake States Lumber Association; Steve Karianen, SFI SIC; Jack Nedland, Wisconsin County Forest Association; Mike Gehrke, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Curt Wester, Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association; Tim Tollefson, Stora Enso North America

DNR Staff Present:

Darrell Zastrow, Carmen Wagner, Kristin Shy

Additional Guests:

Mike Majeski, USFS; Sara Eckardt, USFS; Mike Phillips, Minnesota DNR; Calder Hibbard, Minnesota Forest Resource Council; Paul Hanson, Plum Creek; Annie Maina, Plum Creek

Welcome and Introductions: John DuPlissis

John welcomed the group and asked for introductions. John reviewed the agenda and asked for additional items.

Forestry BMP Advisory Committee Operational Guidelines: Darrell Zastrow

Darrell reviewed the revised operational guidelines which included changes to two items in the committee charge. John DuPlissis suggested the addition of an anti-trust statement to the operational guidelines and the committee agreed that this should be added. DNR staff will work with their legal staff to get an appropriate statement added and this will be shared at the next meeting.

At the next meeting, the intent is that the operational guidelines will be finalized and approved.

2006 Forestry BMP Monitoring: Kristin Shy and Carmen Wagner

Kristin presented the process for BMP monitoring and explained where we are currently in preparing for the 2006 cycle of BMP monitoring. Items such as minimum sample size, eligibility requirements, federal timber sale background information and industrial timber sale background information, BMP team information, and the BMP monitoring process were reviewed.

Additional opportunities were also presented for individuals not placed on monitoring teams or anyone else interested. Opportunities include serving as a monitoring team alternate or serving on a team which will monitor several sales this fall using the USFS regional monitoring protocol. This fall, 15-30 sales which were monitored using the DNR monitoring protocol will be monitored again using the USFS protocol to compare the two processes and the results obtained from both protocols.

Carmen answered a variety of questions regarding team development, conflict of interest with team leaders from USFS, and the regional monitoring that will take place this fall.

Kristin also presented a new publication, "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality: 1995-2005". This publication reviews the accomplishments of the program in its first ten years and summarizes various other aspects of the program. Contact Kristin if you have comments on this publication or are interested in receiving additional copies.

Other Forestry-Related Items: Carmen Wagner

Wisconsin Act 79:

This act provides that a forestry operation may not be declared a nuisance if the forestry operation conforms to generally accepted forestry management practices. This act also requires the Department to define by rule "generally accepted forestry management practices". The Department will be requesting permission for public hearings at the June Natural Resources Board meeting. If permission for public hearings is granted, two to three public hearings will be scheduled later in the summer around the state.

Ch. NR 320 – General Permits for Temporary Stream Crossings:

There were two public hearings, one in Madison and one in Wausau. Three people attended and one written comment was received. The Department expects to ask for approval of the rule order at the August Natural Resources Board meeting.

Soil Disturbance Guidelines:

Paul DeLong has issued a directive to DNR foresters regarding implementation of guidelines for soil disturbances, such as soil compaction and rutting. The directive was presented at the two loggers conferences which were well attended. In May, the state timber sale contract was modified to incorporate the soil disturbance guidelines.

The Department has applied for a grant from the Great Lakes Commission to develop education and training opportunities regarding these new guidelines. Regardless of whether a grant is received, education and training opportunities will be developed.

Carmen and Kristin will be going out this summer and fall to monitor several timber sales to gather information on the frequency and extent to which soil disturbances are currently occurring throughout the state.

Comments:

- Jack explains that county forests are not going to have one guideline for all counties and that the county guidelines will not be the same as the states in most cases.
- Curt asked why the county and state regulations did not have to be the same and it was clarified that the CAR required that a metric be developed. The metric does not necessarily need to be consistent between county and state – state will use the same metric but

counties can use what they need to depending on where in the state they are, but a metric is all that is required.

- Jack clarified that it's a mechanism to trigger contacts and documentation between loggers, foresters, contractors and timber sale administrators. The intention is not to create more paper work but just to create a system for documenting problems with soil disturbances and how those involved plan on fixing them.
- Mark asked about the science and about BMPs. It was clarified that these guidelines have nothing to do with BMPs. Discussion regarding how the guidelines were decided on and the limited scientific information regarding rutting occurred.
- Curt said that the logging profession does have a problem with the guidelines for roads and uplands – too many regulations that take away from time when could be being more productive.
- Tim explained that since his company has been using similar guidelines it has been a “tremendous communication tool” and he said it does work. It has helped to keep communication open so that it is clear what is going on – it's not a question of stopping timber sales, but how can the project proceed so that impacts are minimized.
- Dave reiterated how important he thinks monitoring will be so that the necessary changes can be made. Then auditors can be shown some data.

Coastal Management Program Grant Received:

A grant was received to develop recommendations for landowners who own forested land in Lake Superior's red clay area and along forested trout streams in the watersheds of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. The goal of the project is to provide landowners with information on Forestry BMPs to protect water quality and to provide additional recommendations that a landowner may voluntarily want to implement when managing their woodlot in these special situations. The department will be preparing a summary of management recommendations based on scientific literature, brochures for landowners, two training sessions and a display for each component of the project.

Gail volunteered her help because these are the areas she works in, and Larry Meicher suggested contacting Laura Hewitt and Diane Dalton from Trout Unlimited.

EPA Project Development:

The Forestry BMP Program is working with EPA and USFS to develop a system to prioritize forest road and trail maintenance projects as well as identify potential candidates for temporary or permanent closure. Work on this may be starting this summer and the goal of the outcome would be to produce a model that could be promoted nation-wide.

MFRC Riparian Science and Economic Review: Mike Phillips and Calder Hibbard

Mike Phillips from the Minnesota DNR presented information regarding a current study which is reevaluating current riparian forest management guidelines. This study is using a scientific process which looks at current riparian management guidelines and will eventually make suggestions regarding changing riparian forest management guidelines so they are achieving the goal of protecting water quality.

In 1995, the Sustainable Forest Resources Act appointed the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC). The MFRC was designed to develop timber harvest and forest management guidelines.

The MFRC has appointed a Riparian Science Technical Committee (RSTC) to evaluate a variety of questions regarding current and potential riparian forest management guidelines/issues to determine future needs. After this process of review/research is completed, RSTC will report baseline scientific information to MFRC. MFRC will then convene an economic team to evaluate output from RSTC.

www.frc.state.mn.us/FMgdline/RSTC

Calder Hibbard, from MFRC, presented information about the Economic Technical Analysis of this riparian forest management research. The goal of his work is to develop a better understanding of the economic costs and benefits of riparian forest management. His work has/will include literature reviews which analyze the costs and benefits of riparian forest management and eventually a team will develop recommendations for riparian forest management guidelines from an economic perspective.

Field Exercise: Review of Wisconsin and USFS Regional BMP Monitoring Protocols

In the afternoon, the Advisory Committee went to a Plum Creek timber sale. The committee was broken up into four teams and each team visited four different monitoring stations. Each team used the DNR protocol and the USFS regional protocol at a RMZ site and a stream crossing site. The purpose of this exercise was to give the Advisory Committee a chance to use the regional protocol in the field and to compare and contrast the two protocols. DNR staff will analyze the results of this exercise and it will be presented and discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006